

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 144856

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US, SP, MARR, MASS, OREP

SUBJECT: CHARGE MEETING WITH MOD GUTIERREZ MELLADO

REF: (A) MADRID 6277; (B) MADRID 6199

1. WASHINGTON SHARES THE CONCERN REFLECTED IN REF A THAT GOS HAS AN IMBALANCED VIEW OF US-SPANISH DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP. GUTIERREZ MELLADO REMARKS REPORTED REF B WERE PARTICULARLY DISTRESSING SINCE THEIR IMPLICATION IS A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING THAT SPAIN HAS A CLEAR STAKE AND SPECIFIC NATIONAL INTEREST IN WESTERN DEFENSE AND A CONTRIBUTION TO THIS DEFENSE DOES NOT REQUIRE COMPENSATION. WHILE SOME ASPECTS OF OUR BILATERAL DEFENSE COOPERATION ARE NOT FUNCTIONING AS WELL AS WE ARE WORKING FOR, THE BENEFITS TO SPANISH NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE OVERALL DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP ARE CLEAR. IT SEEMS TO US THAT THE DEFENSE MINISTER MAY BE FOCUSING TOO MUCH ON DAY TO DAY MATTERS SUCH AS
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EQUIPMENT DELIVERY ITEMS AND INSUFFICIENTLY ON THE CLEAR BENEFITS OF THE RELATIONSHIP ON THE HIGHER PLANE.

2. WE THUS SUGGEST THAT CHARGE IN HIS DISCUSSION WITH GUTIERREZ MELLADO, AND WITH OTHER GOS OFFICIALS AS WELL, DRAW ON THE ABOVE IN TAKING THE SAME LINE EMBASSY AND US

OFFICIALS FROM WASHINGTON TOOK WITH HIGH-LEVEL SPANISH
PARTICIPANTS IN MARCH 1978 SPAIN/NATO SEMINAR IN MADRID:
SPAIN AS A WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRY HAS STAKE IN WESTERN
DEFENSE AND A RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MUTUAL
EFFORT. VANCE

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NNN

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